The Peking Government was seriously alarmed when the news of the Wu-Han rising was received. The projected manoeuvres of several Divisions of the Modern Army in the vicinity of Yungpingfu were cancelled, and two Divisions were ordered to proceed South immediately, under the personal command of the Minister of War, General Yin Chang. Admiral Sah Chen-ping was at the same time ordered to assist in the suppression of the revolt with the Fleet. On October 14 the Prince Regent issued a curt Edict appointing Yuan Shih-kai Viceroy of the Hu-Kwang provinces, and Generalissimo of the Imperial Forces, with full authority to grant pardons. (Yuan Shih-kai had been summarily dismissed by the Regent early in 1909, in accordance, so it is said, with the dying wishes of the Emperor Kwang Hsu, who held him responsible for the betrayal of his Reform Movement in 1898). Yuan showed no hurry to accept reinstatement. In sheer desperation the Regent then accepted the resignation of Prince Ching (the Premier) and all other Manchu Ministers, and entrusted Yuan with the formation of a Cabinet. When, therefore, he came up to Peking it was virtually as a Dictator to—not as a servant of—the Throne. He was not installed as Premier until November 15.

In the meantime, on October 30, the Imperial

forces under his direction had recaptured Hankow ; Shanghai had fallen to the revolutionaries led by Chen Chi-mei; and the provinces of Yunnan, Kiangsi and Chekiang had revolted.

After a lull of several weeks the Imperialists retook Hanyang, and there is little doubt that with